

**Fact Sheet
August 2003**

Ford City, Drill Site #26 Site Update Additional Soil Removal Planned



Ford City, California

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the California
Environmental
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The Department's
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to ensure public health,
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by regulating
hazardous waste,
conducting and
overseeing
cleanups, and
developing
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State of California



**California
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Introduction

In 2002, The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) initiated an investigation of lead contaminated soil in a residential area of Ford City, California. The area of concern is located in a two block area between Ash, Birch, Jackson and Monroe Streets. This past March, at DTSC request, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) removed contaminated soil from the area of concern. However, the community expressed concerns about potential contamination on a vacant lot within the area of concern referred to as Drill Site 26 (DS-26). In response to community concerns U.S. EPA requested DTSC to investigate DS-26 for possible contamination. Based on the results of additional sampling showing additional levels of lead, the U.S. Department of Energy is planning to remove additional soil under DTSC oversight. This fact sheet contains information concerning background for DS-26, sampling results, public involvement, DTSC contacts, and mailing list information.

Site Background

In 1996 and 1997, the California Integrated Waste Management Board (IWMB) and Kern County directed the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to investigate a potential burn dump on DS-26 which was their property. DS-26 is located in Ford City, an unincorporated residential area adjacent to Taft, California. The property was kept vacant to allow for petroleum extraction. However, while petroleum was never extracted the site was used for unauthorized disposal of residential trash and burn barrel ash from the 1920s to 1950s. DOE found ash containing elevated levels of lead along the northern end of the property and conducted a cleanup in 1997.

In June and September of 2002, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) conducted two soil sampling events at eight residential properties near the Site. DTSC found lead above the EPA cleanup level and dioxin below the EPA cleanup level and referred the site to the US EPA for cleanup. U.S. EPA removed contaminated soil from 14 properties and unpaved sidewalks and alleyways in March of 2003.

Additional Soil Removal

This past March DTSC collected thirteen surface samples from within the fenced area of DS-26. The samples were analyzed for total metals. The metal of concern, based on previous soil sampling, was lead. Sample results indicated that two out of the thirteen samples contained levels of lead above specified cleanup levels.

As a result DOE took 48 additional samples at DS-26 to better characterize where and how much lead contaminated soil should be removed. The results confirm earlier findings that show the presence of lead in surface soils at concentrations above cleanup levels. DOE will submit a workplan to DTSC for review and approval before work begins. DTSC will inform nearby residents prior to any soil removal. All work will be within the fenced areas at DS-26.

Future Actions

DTSC and DOE are working on a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement to assess seven other drill sites in the area. The purpose of the assessment would be to determine if any contamination exists at these other drill sites and to determine if additional work may be needed at DS-26 after the removal action is complete.

Public Involvement

DTSC is committed to keeping the community informed of Site activities and involved in DTSC's decision making. DTSC will continue to publish fact sheets at appropriate times and hold public meetings when required or needed.

DTSC Contacts

Mike Pfister, Project Manager
Clovis Office
1515 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, CA 93611
(559) 297-3958
Mpfister@dtsc.ca.gov

Randy Sturgeon, Public Participation Specialist
DTSC Sacramento Office
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826-3200
(916) 255-3649
rsturgeo@dtsc.ca.gov

Media Contact

Lisa Gray, Public Information Officer
DTSC Headquarters
P.O Box 806
Sacramento, California 95812-0806
(916) 324-0936
lgray@dtsc.ca.gov

Hearing Impaired

You can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Michael Pfister at (559) 297-3958 regarding the Ford City Site.

Mailing List Coupon

If you did not receive this fact sheet in the mail and wish to be on the Ford City mailing list, please complete the following coupon and return it to Randy Sturgeon, Public Participation Specialist, 8800 Cal Enter Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826.

DTSC mailing lists are solely for the purpose of keeping persons informed of DTSC activities. Mailing lists are not routinely released to outside parties. However, they are considered public records and, if requested, may be subject to release.

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